Florida Senate - 2021 Bill No. SB 470

House



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate Comm: RCS 03/15/2021

The Committee on Judiciary (Bracy) recommended the following: Senate Amendment Delete lines 12 - 42 and insert: Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 943.0586, Florida Statutes, as created by SB 468 or similar legislation, 2021 Regular Session, to read: 943.0586 Expunction of qualifying cannabis offenses.-(8) PUBLIC RECORDS-A criminal history record ordered expunged under this section which is retained by the department

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is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.

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12	I of the State Constitution, except that the department shall
13	disclose the existence of a criminal history record ordered
14	expunged to the entities set forth in subparagraphs (6)(a)1. and
15	37. for their respective licensing, access authorization, and
16	employment purposes and to criminal justice agencies for their
17	respective criminal justice purposes. It is unlawful for any
18	employee of an entity set forth in subparagraph (6)(a)1.,
19	<pre>subparagraph (b)3., subparagraph (b)4., subparagraph (b)5.,</pre>
20	subparagraph (b)6., or subparagraph (b)7. to disclose
21	information relating to the existence of an expunged criminal
22	history record of a person seeking employment, access
23	authorization, or licensure with such entity or contractor,
24	except to the person to whom the criminal history record relates
25	or to persons having direct responsibility for employment,
26	access authorization, or licensure decisions. A person who
27	violates this paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first
28	degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. This
29	section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in
30	accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2,
31	2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment
32	by the Legislature.
33	Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
34	necessity that individuals who petition a court and are granted
35	expunction of certain low-level and nonviolent criminal history
36	records have such criminal history records made confidential and
37	exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a),
38	Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature recognizes
39	the disproportionate harm that criminalizing the purchase or
40	possession of small amounts of cannabis has had on minorities

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41	and disadvantaged communities. The Legislature further
42	recognizes the trends in this state, and nationally, of counties
43	and localities decriminalizing the purchase or possession of
44	small amounts of cannabis. The Legislature also recognizes the
45	need for certain limited exceptions are necessary for public
46	safety. Without this public records exemption, individuals
47	having such low-level and nonviolent criminal history records
48	who are granted expunction of such records might not be able to
49	seek gainful employment and become productive, contributing
50	members of this state. For these reasons, the Legislature finds
51	that it is a public necessity that such records be made
52	confidential and exempt.
53	Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that
54	SB 468 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation

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